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WHIRRAKEE

July 2005 Vol. 26 No. 6

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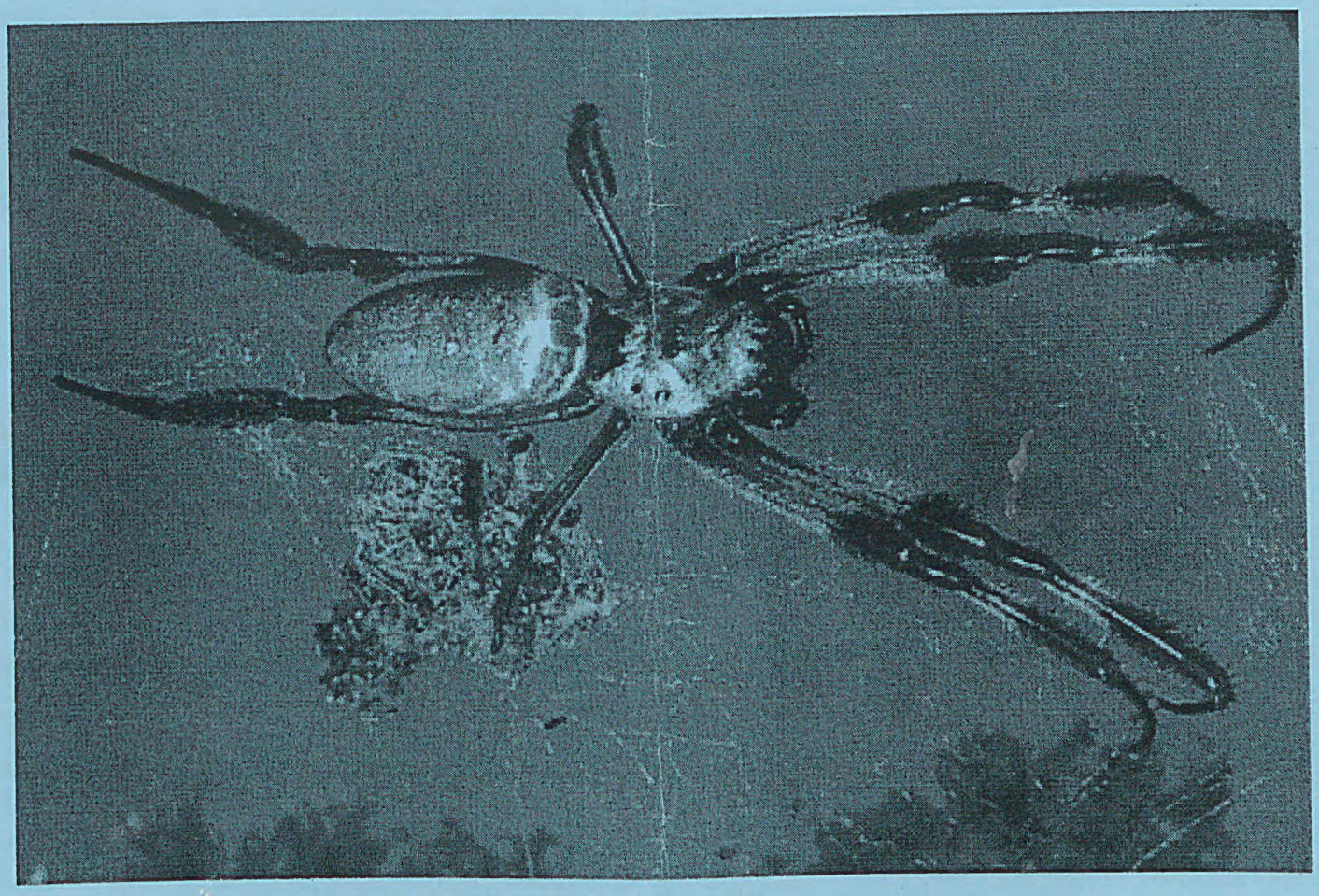

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2004 - 2005

President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Senior Vice President	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Junior Vice President	vacant		
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo e-mail:wholsworth@bigpond.com	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jane Cleary	24 Goynes Road, Epsom	5448 4396
	Jan Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser		
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	done by the committee		
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Rob Moors, Maurie Lewis, Glenise Moors, Rod Orr, Bob Ruddick, and there are 3 vacancies.

Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.
Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see bottom of page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 26, No.6, July 2005

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note: The year has gone so quickly - we are including nomination forms for office bearers in this issue (seems like we did this only a few months ago). If possible, nominations should be in one month before the Annual General Meeting, that is, for the August meeting. Please consider nominating for one of the many varied and interesting positions. If you are not sure what positions there are, please look on the inside front cover of the Whirrakee.
It looks like this edition is a pre-run of our planned special bird edition for September. I was grateful for the articles to come in at shot notice but am still hopeful that we will have another bird edition for September. The bird observers are obviously a very active lot.

Front Cover Photograph:

Photographer: Liz Martin
A beautiful Golden Orb-weaver (*Nephila edulis* (?), Family Tetragnathidae). In 'Spiders of Bendigo' its name is given as Luscious Golden Orb-weaver, which might have something to do with the species name…

Short Notices

A New Book for Bendigo....
Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country

Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country
By Chris Tzaros
Published by CSIRO Publishing at an advertised cost of $39.95 plus $9.00 for postage and handling.
This book is now available. We have made a bulk purchase of books from the publishers (CSIRO) and received a discount of about 35%. We will be selling copies for $30.00 to the 18 persons that requested the book. The book will be available for collection at the June 8 General Meeting.
If you would like to buy this book through the Club, and missed placing an order, we could make an additional order if there is sufficient demand. Please send a message Bill Holsworth (5443 4063). The books will NOT be re-ordered if only a very few members want it.
The CSIRO catalogue describes the book as follows:
"The forests and woodlands of Victoria's Box-Ironbark region are one of the most important areas of animal diversity and significance in southern Australia. This book provides and overview of the ecology of the habitat and its wildlife. With detailed description of 249 species and detailed guide to where to watch the wildlife in 16 key parks and conservation reserves. 256 pages pb colour illust."

Editor's Note: Quite a few members have already purchased this book. Would anyone volunteer to do a book review for the Whirrakee?

Message from Diana Collier – Club Librarian

The club has several complete sets of the *Whirrakee* available. Does anybody have a use for these or know of a place that could use them? If so, please contact Diana (her contact details are on the inside front cover).

BFNC Garden Working Bee

Regular garden working bees are held on the Saturday before each general meeting.

The next working bee will be on
Saturday, 9th of July, 9am.

We will be carrying out light maintenance around the garden and also plant some new plants in the gaps now that it has rained at last.

All welcome

Challenges for Bird Conservation in the 21st Century:
Birds in a Changing Environment

BIRDS AUSTRALIA SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS AND CAMPOUT
Bendigo, Victoria, October 2005

Further information:
More information about the Congress, including location, accommodation and activities is available on the Congress website
http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/congress/index.html

Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club Name Badges

The Committee has investigated the costs of producing Name Badges for members who don't have one.
If we are able to order 20 or more new badges then the cost will be $6-60 for each badge - for smaller numbers or single orders the badges will cost more than $9 each.
Please let us know, by leaving a phone message on 5443 5668, if you want your name to be added to the list for Name Badges. We intend to order them as soon as possible after the first 20 names have been received. If we can not achieve this threshold number we will still try to negotiate the best price and let you know what this is before we have them made.

Where are our Flame Robins ? (request for help)

By Glenise Moors

In May 1999, Jan Orr and I began colour-banding Flame Robins (*Petroica phoenicea)* in the Sedgwick end of the Big Hill Range. More than 500 robins have been given a colour combination which enables us to identify them individually and note when they are present on the site. Many return to this winter-feeding area each year. Of course, a great number of birds are taken by predators and die from natural causes as they migrate between the higher altitudes and this area.

On May 17, 2005, I had my first sighting of one of our colour-banded robins away from the banding site. This male bird was with 4 other males and 5 'brown birds' as they fed from a roadside fence out into a ploughed paddock. Also present were their common feeding companions – Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Willie Wagtails and Magpies. (Magpies chase Flame Robins). The area was on the Dunolly side of Archdale – 94 kilometres west of Sedgwick!
It had been banded on August13, 2003, having full male plumage and was scoped the following day on our site. We have not recorded it on the site since.

Several Field Naturalists across Victoria have been looking at Flame Robin legs for us but this species seems to be declining rapidly. Many people when questioned say they haven't seen robins sitting on fences like they used to. It would be fantastic if everyone looked at robin legs and let us know if they see combinations of the following colours – Red, Black, Pale Green, Emerald Green, Blue, White, Orange, Hot Pink, and Yellow. The left leg has a metal band with a colour above and the right leg has two colour bands.

Please help us find our birds and collect more information. Jan's contact details are Phone (03) 54435668 and mine are Phone (03) 54396254 and e-mail: glenise@netcon.net.au

It may be like, "looking for a needle in a haystack", but it is great to be seeing other birds too. On June 16, Rob and I saw 7 Jacky Winters, a male Hooded Robin, and a group of 3 Grey-crowned Babblers as we checked out Flame Robin legs (26 birds-23 definitely not banded) between Knowsley and Sedgwick via Eppalock and Emu Creek.

Bendigo Region Birding Locations

by Anne Bridley and Simon Starr

The October 2005 Congress and Campout will offer the opportunity of seeing birds in a birdo-friendly habitat. Instead of craning the neck at distant treetops or peering through dense undergrowth, come and observe our diverse birds (over 200 species) in easily accessible Box-ironbark forests and woodlands.

If the Yellow Gum (*E. leucoxylon*) flowering is widespread and has good nectar, we can expect to see a wide variety of honeyeaters and several species of lorikeet in the district. The breeding season should also be in full swing, especially if we have reasonable winter rains.

Close by the Congress venue (Latrobe University) is **Kennington Reservoir,** where waterbirds breed and Blue-faced Honeyeaters and Musk Lorikeets can be seen. Bush birds can be found in the adjacent bushland reserve.

Also close to the uni are the **One Tree Hill** and **Mandurang forests** (part of the Greater Bendigo National Park). Birds of box-ironbark and heathy dry forest such as Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Crested Bellbird, Scarlet Robin, Fuscous, Black-chinned, Brown-headed, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Yellow, Brown, Striated and Buff-rumped Thornbills, Speckled Warbler, Common Bronzewing, Varied Sittella, Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo and White-browed Babbler can all be observed.

Close to Bendigo are:

Kamarooka forest: (also part of the Greater Bendigo National Park) The most northerly section is largely Grey Box grassy woodland with a very interesting wildflower understorey while the higher areas towards Bendigo are mallee with Yellow Gum along drainage lines and some emergent Red Ironbark. Look for Hooded and Red-capped Robins, Gilbert's Whistler, Variegated Fairy-wren, Black-eared Cuckoo, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Crested Bellbird, Yellow Thornbill, White-browed Babbler, Yellow Robin. Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters hang out in Yellow Gums and Red Ironbarks. The mallee areas contain Brush Bronzewing, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Spotted Nightjar (rare), Purple-gaped, Tawny-crowned and White-eared Honeyeaters, Golden Whistler.

To be in the mallee at dusk watching the sunset over the rolling dunes while listening to Shy Heathwrens calling is a magical experience.

Wellsford State Forest: (east of Bendigo). Although this is the largest patch of box-ironbark forest near Bendigo, much of it is a relative bird desert. A lot of the central area is plantation-like with very little understorey or ground litter. Most of the Wellsford forest is still used for timber production.

None the less, because of its size it is still an important area for birds. The best areas tend to be at the eastern end around the **Mt Sugarloaf Nature Reserve** and in gullies and near forest edges where there is a bit of understorey or some larger trees. Look for Musk, Purple-crowned and Little Lorikeets, Dusky Woodswallow, Crested Bellbird, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Weebill, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.

Big Hill Range: (just south of Bendigo). This metamorphic aureole divides the box-ironbark drier forests on sedimentary rock around Bendigo from granite country to the south. It has a mixture of heathy dry forest and grassy dry forest and bald hills with remnant trees. A visitor may see various birds of prey, Speckled Warbler, Richard's Pipit, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Scarlet Robin, Yellow Robin, Eastern Spinebill, Southern Whiteface and great views over the forests surrounding Bendigo.

Fryers Town and Forest Ck (Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park): (south of Bendigo). These heathy dry forests contain White-browed Babbler, Rainbow Bee-eater in spring, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Little Eagle, Peregrine Falcon. Eight species of honeyeater are regularly seen.

A little further away are:

Terrick Terrick National Park: (north of Bendigo)

This park preserves some of the largest remaining Cypress Pine woodland and open native grasslands remaining in Victoria. A range of declining woodland birds can be easily found here such as Diamond Firetails, Hooded Robins, Red-capped Robins and Gilbert's Whistlers. Other notable species present include Australian (Mallee) Ringnecks, Southern Whiteface, Chestnut-crowned Babbler (rare), and Grey-crowned Babblers on the nearby Bendigo creek. The grassland section of the park holds a viable population of the nationally threatened Plains Wanderer. Late Sept/early Oct is peak flowering time in the grasslands.

When going up to the Terricks, it is worth dropping in on **Tang Tang Wildlife Reserve** to see the best seasonal River Red Gum and Black Box swamp in the area. Even when dry, it attracts a good assortment of birds of prey and has some stunning big old River Red Gums, which are used by hollow-nesters such as Sacred Kingfishers. When there is water it is a marvellous breeding area for cormorants, spoonbills, ibis and other waterbirds.

To the north-west:

Kooyoora State Park:

Extensive Box-Ironbark forests and granite hills provide a home for a wide range of woodland birds in this park. Bird species of wetter southern Victoria cross paths here with a number of species of the drier inland, making for very diverse and interesting birdwatching. This is also an excellent area for orchids and other wildflowers.

Inglewood and Wychitella Mallee:

Some quite extensive reserves of mallee vegetation north-west of Bendigo provide a home for some of the unique mallee dependent birds such as Southern Scrub-robins, Shy Heathwrens, Malleefowl (rare), Variegated Fairy-wrens, Crested Bellbirds, Brush Bronzewings and Spotted Nightjars amongst others.

An amazing diversity of honeyeaters is a feature of this area with 16+ species regularly present (including Kooyoora S.P. to the south).

Kerang Wetlands:

A wide diversity of wetlands exists in this area from hypersaline to fresh, rarely flooded to permanent. Ramsar listed, the up to 80 wetlands of the region can hold significant numbers of waders, duck, and other waterbirds. Despite drought conditions the use of environmental flows has kept some of the lakes in good shape to attract significant numbers of birds. Some of the species recorded include Australasian and Little Bitterns, Glossy Ibis, Freckled ducks, Painted Snipe, White-bellied Sea-Eagles, White-winged Fairy-wrens and Orange Chats to name a few.

Ecology of the Box-Ironbark forests around Bendigo

By Bill Holsworth and Rod Orr

Visitors to Bendigo in October 2005 will be greeted by birds and wildflowers. The City of Greater Bendigo is in the centre of the Box-Ironbark region of Victoria. Around Bendigo the dominant trees of the woodland are Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*) and Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*). However the region is far from being uniformly covered by woodland. In the past 150 years more than 85% of the natural vegetation has been replaced with agriculture, grazing and urbanization. Within 1-3 hours drive from Bendigo a naturalist can be in the Mt Buffalo alpine area, the Grampians, or the banks of the Murray River. But if you stay around Bendigo there are about 10 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) to explore.

The 17 EVCs in the Box-Ironbark region of Victoria represent the influence of climate, landform and the underlying geology and soils on the vegetation. A major portion of the area is underlain by ancient sedimentary rock that has weathered to soils that have low fertility and water-holding capacity. The upper slopes of ridges and hills have shallow soils, but the lower slopes, valleys, low hills and alluvial plains can be quite fertile. On these areas the typical Box-Ironbark forests cover 60% of the total remaining natural vegetation. Grey Box, Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and Red-Ironbark trees, with a sparse shrubby ground layer, dominate the open forest. Along the creeks and rivers are grassy woodlands with River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) trees.

North-west of Bendigo are the Whipstick and Kamarooka forests with their unique flora. These former State Parks are now included in the new Greater Bendigo National Park. Further north, towards the Murray River, the fertile northern plains are mostly taken over by agriculture and grazing. Originally they were covered by grassy woodland dominated by Grey Box, White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) and Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*). A few remnants of this vegetation class can be visited at Terrick Terrick National Park.

Unfortunately the impact of European culture has depleted and fragmented the forest's plants and animals. Around Bendigo the Box-Ironbark forests represent the last refuge for several threatened species. The Regent Honeyeater (*Xamthomyza phyrgia*), once very common, is now seen only every few years and no longer breeds in the area. The Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) visits from Tasmania in the winter and may still be in the Box-Ironbark forests of Bendigo in October. The insectivorous marsupial, the Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), is still present in good numbers

but is almost extinct elsewhere in Victoria. The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*), one of the rarest reptiles in Victoria, is found in the One-tree Hill Regional Park near the La Trobe University campus.

The natural history of the area has been well studied and documented. In 1994 Malcolm and Jane Calder compiled their book, *"The Forgotten Forests"*, published by the Victorian National Parks Association Inc. This book, (now published under the title, *"A Field Guide to Victoria's Box and Ironbark Country"*), and pressure from the region's Field Naturalists' Clubs and other conservation groups, created significant awareness of this area. The political pressure resulted in a detailed study by the Environment Conservation Council. Their completed final report of the Box-Ironbark Forests and Woodlands Investigation was released in 2001, and in October 2002 several National, State and Regional Parks were legally proclaimed.

Chris Tzaros has just finished the most recent and most comprehensive review of the area, in his book *"Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country"*. It has just been published by CSIRO (or will be within the next few weeks). This publication will complement the CD-ROM (for PC's only), *"Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area"*, that was compiled by Viridans Biological Databases for the Field Naturalists' Clubs of Bendigo, Castlemaine and Maryborough. It has photographs, descriptions, conservation status, distribution maps and distribution records for all the 281 bird species, 1600 plants, 53 mammals, and 65 frogs and reptiles. Distribution records are plotted on a 2 minute grid (approximately 2 x 3 km). The CD-ROM is available from the Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club for $50 plus p&p. The Bendigo Field Naturalists' Club (PO Box 396, Bendigo, 3552 or http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html) has also published booklets on the birds, wildflowers, eucalypts, and spiders of the Bendigo area.

June General Meeting:
Speaker Tom May
Topic: Fungi of the Box-Ironbark Forest

by Sabine Wilkens

The title of this talk was a slight misnomer. Tom May said he wished the talk was about fungi of the box ironbark forest but it isn't really…little, in fact, is known about the fungi of the box ironbark forests. However, a project called 'Fungimap' may change this. Tom May works at the Royal Botanic gardens in Melbourne and they, together with the FNCV, have been heavily involved in this project which is largely community based and most people contributing to it do so on a voluntary basis since is inception 10 years ago.

Fungi are a very diverse group. It is estimated that there are 20000 species of macrofungi in Australia (in the same ballpark as flowering plants). However, there are about 6 to 10 times more microfungi and the majority of those have not even been found, let alone described.

The microfungi include those parasitic rust fungi, the powdery mildews and leaf spot fungi that can cause harm to agricultural crops or native plants. Saprophytic fungi on the other hand are also microscopic but they live on dead matter rather than living tissue and they help in the decomposition process, often aiding nutrient recycling and breaking down tissue not easily tackled by other organism, like wood. Mycorrhizal fungi and those fungi that contribute to lichens are found in close mutualistc relationships with their partner. Most of the year these are also not seen by the casual observer.

In fact, only when fungi begin to form a fruiting body do they become noticeable to passers-by. A weft of fungal threads may live for a long time in the ground and be huge in the area it covers but its presence is only revealed to us when the fruiting bodies form.

Tom compared the task of surveying Victoria for fungi to that of looking for

plants when they are in flower only. The added difficulty is that the fruiting body may only be around for a number of days.

Indeed, sampling fungi over time demonstrates some of these problems, even if you do have the enthusiasts that go out on rainy autumn days. One Melbourne group had gone on regular fungal forays over 7 years, always to the same spot, and, after seven years, still came up with new and unknown species. Each year between 40 and 60 species were found but amongst them were new ones so that a graph showing the cumulative total of species against time was still rising after that many years. And that was the result of going at the same time each year. If visits were in different seasons, then still more species would be found.

The lack of knowledge in fugal occurrence and distribution makes it very hard to argue for their conservation, so the task of the 'fungimap' project is to establish the distribution of some 100 of the most easily recognisable fungal species.

There is not much to go on. Herbarium specimens of many fungi exist but they are not like plant specimens, but rather dried or soggy bits of fungal flesh without adequate descriptions and drawing to accompany the material. There is some literature however that is a better guide, most comes from the *Victorian Naturalist*.

In this context, Tom mentioned another very big project that has been started called 'Australia's virtual herbarium. This will be a mega project, incorporating the specimens from all the collections in Australia, around 6 million species in all. Have a look at this on http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/avh/

The user will specify an area or map and find where a species is found for example for the purpose of what to grow in a particular area for revegetation projects. 'Fungimap' is a bit like that but on a smaller scale.

It has been established so far that with fungi there are three main distribution patterns, the southern coastal areas (Bassian distribution), the northern coastal (Torresian) and the arid inland (Eyrean). It appears as if fungi are more widely distributed than plants, perhaps because their spores get blown about by the wind and they therefore do not rely on a particular animal for dispersal. However, before this information is used to argue that conservation for fungi is not necessary as they are so widely distributed, it needs to be established that those who look to be the same species, are actually the same genetically.

Very few fungi are listed under the FFG act. Perhaps if a few more were listed, this would stimulate and renew interest in this field.

Tom then went and showed us some stunning species of fungi that show the above patterns of distribution.
There are not many records from the box-ironbark forest and more are desperately needed. In fact this recent rain we are having may have produced a very interesting flush of fungi after such a long drought. For example, throughout the university gardens this week were masses of multicoloured fungi.

Have a look at the 'fungimap' site at http://fungimap@rbg.vic.gov.au/

There were so many questions after Tom finished talking (and also while he was talking), that I thought this topic was interesting enough for two meetings. I had lost of questions too which I did not ask because it was getting late. Hopefully Tom May will come back one days and talk to us again. Fungi are a wonderful topic and Tom was a wonderful speaker.

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

* * * * * * *

THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST(FNCV)
April 2005

"Distribution of foraging waterbirds throughout the Lake Borrie ponds at the Western Treatment Plant" outlines a study carried out at this important Ramsar wetland west of Melbourne.

"Observations of the nationally threatened freshwater fish, Murray Hardhead, in three Victorian salt lakes" revealed a healthy abundance of fish in two of the north-central lakes, and a much less healthy population in Round Lake.

"Vegetation condition assessment of the semi-arid woodlands of Murray-Sunset National Park" showed limited perennial species regeneration following years of overstorey removal and grazing pressure. The data collected will assist in future monitoring.

"A survey of the vertebrate fauna of the Black Range, near Stawell" was carried out over a two year period. The area covered seven private properties and a variety of vegetation locales. This habitat may be an important wildlife refuge for the one hundred and fifty-three species found.

* * * * * * *

PARKWATCH(VNPA)
June 2005

"Last chance to protect Murray red gum forests" reports on the latest developments in this campaign. The VEAC River Red Gum Forests Investigation is now under way and submissions are being invited. Many of the areas concerned are being used as woodlots for firewood, and managed as plantations.

"(Port Phillip) Bay Dredging Doubts" outlines the key findings of the panel which considered the Environment Effects Statement and the public submissions. Some of the many concerns expressed are listed in this article.

"Protecting our Biodiversity: the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo" discusses problems associated with the conservation of the endangered south-eastern species. Protection of large hollow bearing trees, changes to fire regimes, native vegetation controls and habitat preservation are among the issues raised.

"Mount Worth State Park" pays tribute to VNPA member Jack Brooks, who died earlier this year. He worked for many years to encourage the establishment of parkland in the western Strzeleckis. The park contains fern gullies and remnant Mountain Ash forest.

* * * * * * *

Also received recently:

Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)

Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC)

Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)

Field Nats News(FNCV)

Plains Wanderer(Echuca BOCA)

The Bird Observer(BOCA)

* * * * * * *

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Guest Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2005

Second Wednesday of the month, 8:00 pm

Please check each ***WHIRRAKEE*** for additional events or changes.

The general meeting will start at 7:30pm, with the speaker being introduced at 8:00pm.

Date - 2005	Topic	Speaker
July 13	'Co-operative breeding behaviour of tree-creepers (with particular reference to the White-browed Tree-creeper)'	Jim Radford (Research Fellow, Deakin University)
August 10	'Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Hooded Scalyfoot and other rare reptiles'	Peter Robertson (Wildlife Consultant)
September 14 AGM	'Studies of the road edge effect in box and ironbark forest' (watch this spot – speakers and topic may still change)	Zoe Pocock and Ruth Lawrence (La Trobe University)
October 12	'Xanthorrhoea - ecology and flowering'	Mark Bellette (University of Melbourne)
November 9	'Owls of the World'	David Hollands (Wildlife Photographer)
December 14	Christmas Diner. 'The Giant Gippsland Earthworm - conservation issues'	Neville Rosengren (La Trobe University)

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, July 13 7.30pm
Jim Radford, Research Fellow at Deakin University will talk about 'Co-operative breeding behaviour of tree-creepers (with particular reference to the White-browed Tree-creeper)'

Wednesday, August 10 7.30pm
Peter Robertson (Wildlife Consultant) will talk about 'Pink-tailed Worm-lizard, Hooded Scalyfoot and other rare reptiles'

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The following is a guide for the discussion topics for this year's meetings (subject to change).

Jul 27th - Scat identification

Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web

Any comments about the site are most welcome.
http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

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BFNC Garden Working Bee

Regular garden working bees are held on the Saturday before each general meeting.

The next working bee will be on **Saturday, 9th of July, 9am.**

We will be carrying out light maintenance around the garden and also plant some new plants in the gaps now that it has rained at last.

All welcome

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

Spring in the Bendigo Bush

BFNC will have a small part in this yearly event. If anybody wants to get involved please contact Bill Holsworth or Sally Buttle at the Discovery Centre. Sally is again the chief administrator of the program.